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Message Text

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65
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SY-05 SCA-01 L-03 VO-03 PM-04

PPT-01 /034 W
---------- 045573
R 041424Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7930
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
MSG BN ARLINGTON, VA
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
DIA
DOD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TANANARIVE 0155

AMMAN FOR COL. KOETHE
ADDIS FOR F CO.
DOD FOR ISA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CVIS, MA
SUBJ: VISA REFUSALS FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL

REF: STATE 026689

1. CHARGE CALLED ON MFA DIRECTOR OF BILATERAL AFFAIRS RAKOTONDRAMASY FEB. 4 TO REQUEST THAT VISAS BE ISSUED TO KOETHE AND LEMERISE WHOSE VISAS HAD BEEN CANCELLED IN WASHINGTON. AFTER RAKOTONDRAMASY DREW A BLANK AND CHARGE EXPLAINED THAT THEY WERE MILITARY PERSONNEL, RAKOTONDRAMASY SAID THAT THERE IS RESTRICTION AGAINST VISITING MILITARY PERSONNEL. CHARGE THEN STATED THAT SOLE PURPOSE OF KOETHE'S AND LEMERISE'S TRIP WAS TO INSPECT SECURITY OF EMBASSY AND PERSONAL SECURITY OF EMBASSY STAFF. IN THAT CASE, SAID RAKOTONDRAMASY, THERE SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM AND EMBASSY SHOULD SEND DIPLOMATIC NOTE REQUESTING VISAS WHICH HE PROMISED TO HAVE EXPEDITED. (NO MENTION WAS MADE OF MSG DETACHMENT.)
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2. HAVING MADE HEADWAY ON THAT ISSUE, CHARGE GENTLY BROACHED MATTER OF EMB/PRETORIA AIRCRAFT ON WHICH WE HAD SENT DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO MFA LAST WEEK REQUESTING PERMISSION FOR STOPOVER. CHARGE EXPLAINED THAT AIRCRAFT HAD DIPLOMATIC STATUS SINCE IT WILL BELONG TO EMB/PRETORIA AND ONLY PURPOSE OF TANANARIVE STOPOVER WAS RE-FUELING. RAKOTONDRAMASY SAID THAT IF AIRCRAFT MAKING ONLY "TECH-NICAL STOP", AND DEPENDING ON VIEWS OF OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES (MIN/INTERIOR, GENDARMERIE, ETC.), HE AGAIN SAW NO PROBLEM AND REQUESTED THAT EMB SEND ANOTHER NOTE TO MFA FORMALLY REQUESTING VISAS.

3. IN VIEW OF DEPARTURE IN JULY OF OUR DEFENSE ATTACHE, CHARGE ASKED RAKOTONDRAMASY IF WE WOULD HAVE ANY PROBLEM IN BRINGING IN HIS SUCCESSOR. RAKOTONDRAMASY SAID THERE WOULD BE NO PRO-BLEM WHATSOEVER SINCE MILITARY ATTACHES ARE WITHIN PURVIEW OF EMBASSY OPERATIONS.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPT. SHOULD ADVISE DOD AND MSG BN IN ARLINGTON THAT IN FUTURE ALL MILITARY PERSONNEL BEING ASSIGNED TO OR PLANNING TO VISIT TANANARIVE SHOULD, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, BE PROVIDED DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS WHICH HAVE NO INDICATION OF THEIR MILITARY STATUS. WE HAVE HAD NO TROUBLE IN PAST UNDER THESE CONDITIONS. MOREOVER, PASSPORTS SHOULD BE DELIVERED TO EMB OF MADAGASCAR IN WASHINGTON BY DEPT OF STATE RATHER THAN DOD MESSENGER WHO MAY GIVE AWAY THE GAME. (NOTE: NEW MSG WATCHSTANDER EXPECTED TO DEPART WASHINGTON O/A FEB. 20.)
SHEINBAUM

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